

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 02542 111910Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 AID-05
IGA-02 MC-02 EB-08 OMB-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 ACDA-07 NEAE-00 SSM-03 SAJ-01 /079 W
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O 111213Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1624

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 3 LINE 4 WORD "TWO" TO READ
"THREE"--PARA 6 LINE 9 WORD "ITS" TO READ "THEIR")

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MASS, EG
SUBJECT: UPI ACCOUNT OF STAFFDEL BRYEN REPORT

REF: (A) STATE 31154, (B) 76 CAIRO 16967, (C) 76 CAIRO 16787
(D) 76 CAIRO 16857

1. AS DEPT AWARE, STAFFDEL BRYEN/KRAFT VISITED EGYPT
DECEMBER 1-7. REPORT OF VISIT SENT REFTELS B, C AND D.

2. IN ONE OF MY TALKS WITH STAFFDEL, THEY RAISED SUBJECT
OF EGYPTIAN INTEREST IN OBTAINING US ARMS. IN CONFIRMED
THAT INTEREST, NOTING SADAT HAS FREQUENTLY MENTIONED TO
VISITING CODELS HIS INTEREST IN OBTAINING DEFENSIVE
WEAPONS, SUCH AS F5E AIRCRAFT AND TOW ANTI-TANK MISSILES.
ASKED NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT SADAT WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE,
I POINTED OUT WE HAD NEVER HAD ANY FORMAL REQUEST, BUT
SADAT HAS OCCASIONALLY MENTIONED TO VISITING CODELS TWO
SQUADRONS. I DID NOT RPT NOT SPECIFY A "LARGE" NUMBER OF
TOW MISSILES AND THAT DESCRIPTION IS A STAFFDEL ADDITION.

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I DO NOT RECALL MENTIONING ADDITIONAL C-130 AIRCRAFT, BUT
WE KNOW EGYPTIAN AIR FORCE WOULD LIKE, IF IT WERE POSSIBLE,
TO OBTAIN MORE C-130'S. I POINTED OUT SADAT DOES NOT
CONSIDER THAT THIS WOULD BASICALLY AFFECT THE BALANCE OF
POWER IN THE AREA, BUT THAT IT WOULD HELP STRENGTHEN
HIS POSITION WITH ALL-IMPORTANT EGYPTIAN MILITARY.

3. I DO NOT KNOW WHO THE EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS WERE WHO ALLEGEDLY SPOKE OF SADAT'S CURRENT "PEACE OFFENSIVE" AS BASICALLY A SHORT-TERM STRATEGY. PRIMIN, FAHMY AND THIRD ARMY COMMANDER GENERAL GEDAWI WERE THE ONLY THREE SENIOR EGYPTIANS WHOM STAFFDEL MET. FROM OFFICERS PRESENT AT THOSE MEETINGS, WE KNOW THAT NONE OF THESE OFFICIALS MADE SUCH A COMMENT. ACCOUNT OF MEETING WITH FAHMY SENT REFTEL C. JUDGING FROM STAFFDEL'S QUESTIONS ON ARRIVAL, WE GAINED DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT BRYEN/KRAFT ARRIVED WITH THAT VIEW AND WERE LOOKING FOR INFORMATION TO SUPPORT IT.

4. STATEMENT THAT GOE ATTACHES MAJOR IMPORTANCE TO SEPARATING ISRAEL FROM ITS SUPPORT IN THE WEST IS MEANINGLESS. SOME EGYPTIANS WOULD CERTAINLY LIKE TO DO SO. MOST WOULD SETTLE FOR GENUINE EVENHANDEDNESS. AS DEPT AWARE, SADAT HAS REPEATEDLY SAID, PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY, THAT HE HAS NO DESIRE TO CHANGE USG COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL. SO FAR AS HE IS CONCERNED, HE HAS ADDED, USG FREE TO GIVE EVERY ISRAELI A PHANTOM, A TANK AND A WEAPON, AS WELL AS SECURITY GUARANTEE. ALL HE ASKS FROM USG IS THAT IT MAKE OBJECTIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROBLEM AND ACT ACCORDINGLY.

5. I ASSUME THAT STAFFDEL BRYEN/KRAFT REPORT WAS LEAKED IN AN EFFORT LESSEN IMPACT OF CODEL RIBICOFF/ BAKER REPORT. FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH, ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF STAFFDEL MADE OBSERVATION TO EMBOFF THAT HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND HOW SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS WHO HAD RECENTLY VISITED EGYPT COULD SO HAVE LOST THEIR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CRITICAL FACULTIES WHEN TALKING TO SADAT. STAFFDEL DID NOT, OF COURSE, SEE SADAT.

6. SO FAR AS PRESS GUIDANCE IS CONCERNED, I SUGGEST THAT, IF ASKED, WE SIMPLY CONFIRM LONG-STANDING GOE INTEREST IN PURCHASING DEFENSIVE WEAPONS, INCLUDING FSE'S AND TOW'S, AS FREQUENTLY STATED BY SADAT TO VISITING CODELS. THERE IS NOTHING TO HIDE IN THIS MATTER. AS FAR AS THE REST OF THE REPORT IS CONCERNED, BELIEVE WE SHOULD GIVE THE PRESS THE FACTS OF THE EGYPTIAN POSITION AS WE KNOW THEM. STAFFDEL BRYEN/KRAFT CLEARLY ENTITLED TO THEIR OPINION, WHICH I RESPECT; HOWEVER, THEIR CONCLUSIONS ARE QUITE AT ODDS WITH THOSE OF EQUALLY PERCEPTIVE AND PERHAPS MORE EXPERIENCED OBSERVERS IN THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES OF OUR GOVT AS TO THE GENUINENESS OF SADAT'S FREQUENTLY STATED DESIRE FOR A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE. WE KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT SADAT'S VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT THAT WE OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT. EILTS

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Message Attributes

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